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BIWEEKLY MEETING WITH DCI

SOUTHEAST ASIA TO SOUTH PACIFIC: GROWING NUCLEAR ISSUES

Growing anti-nuclear rhetoric and action in both Southeast Asia and the South Pacific have of late taken on greater strategic implications for the United States.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar has just proposed the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ) in ASEAN, as a first step toward achievement of ASEAN's long held goal of a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN). His action will fuel anti-nuclear sentiment in the area and will create new problems for US policy.

Mochtar's particular proposal has as yet little, if any, support in other ASEAN countries, but the Indonesians believe it will enhance Indonesia's status with third-world countries outside the region. The proposal was probably timed to take account of the upcoming 30th anniversary of Bandung Nonaligned Conference in April in which Jakarta hopes to assert its leadership role in the nonaligned movement, a role that it has particularly tried to assume since the death of Indira Gandhi.

Separate from Mochtar's proposal, the proposal for a NWFZ treaty for the South Pacific area (not including ASEAN) made by Australia in 1983 is continuing to move forward and there is a chance that it could be concluded by 1986. The treaty is directed principally against French nuclear tests, and, as a concession to the US and ANZUS treaty requirements, allows for free passage of all warships.

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[REDACTED] the Soviets [REDACTED] will likely propagandize support for any measure that complicates US naval activity or other US interests in both regions.

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